

Message Text

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ORIGIN SPM-01

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8/31/73 EXT 23262

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AID POLICY - FAMILY PLANNING

REF: (A) PARIS 21549

(B) DEPARTMENT A-5913 (JULY 11, 1973)

1. COMMENT IN REFTEL INDICATES GOF ATTACHES PRIORITY TO FAMILY PLANNING AND PRESUMABLY WILL INCLUDE IT AMONG SELECTIVE USES OF AID FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE A MAJOR CHANGE IN POLICY. AS EMBASSY MAY KNOW, FRENCH ATTITUDE IN UN POPULATION COMMISSION, THOUGH NOT IN OPPOSITION, HAS NOT BEEN ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING; GOF HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO UNFPA (EXCEPT FOR MINOR GRANT TIED TO DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROJECT IN FRANCE); FRENCH BILATERAL AID FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY
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FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, HAS BEEN BETWEEN MINIMAL AND NON-

EXISTENT.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER EXPLANATION THIS POSSIBLE POLICY CHANGE. DESIRED INFO WOULD INCLUDE: WHAT OFFICIAL FRENCH INDICATION UNDERLIES STATEMENT IN REFTTEL; WHAT FORM FAMILY PLANNING AID MIGHT TAKE (WHETHER MULTILATERAL, UNFPA OR BILATERAL); AND TO WHAT COUNTRIES OR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE OFFERED?

3. ALSO WOULD THIS PRESAGE ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDES OF GOF TOWARD GENERAL EFFORT TO ATTACK PROBLEMS OF WORLD POPULATION GROWTH, AND WOULD IT BE REFLECTED IN GOF PARTICIPATION IN UN BODIES, ESPECIALLY UPCOMING NOVEMBER MEETING OF UN POPULATION COMMISSION, OR IN 1974 WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (SEE PAGE 7, REFERENCE AIRGRAM)?
ROGERS

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